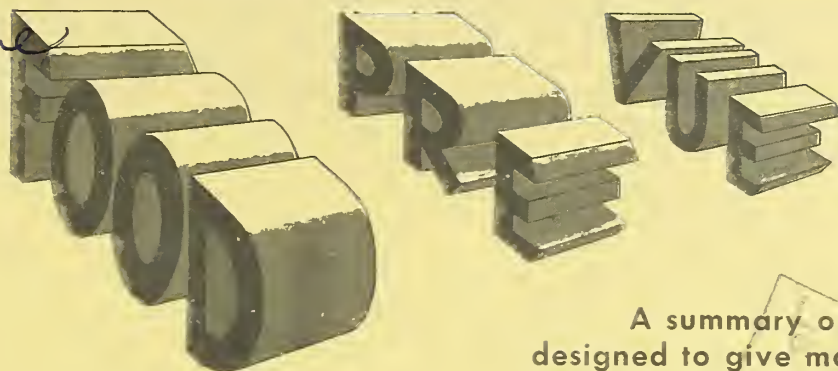


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Reserve



A summary of the food outlook especially
designed to give maximum advance information
to food editors to help them plan food features.

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service

July 29, 1958
F P - 20

- MEAT: Supplies will shortly start rising seasonally but likely continue slightly below year earlier. A little more pork and better grades of beef this summer and early fall is probable but less of the lower beef grades. Per capita civilian consumption of meat expected reach 150 pounds--down 9 pounds from last year. This largely reflects reduction in output of all classes of meat first half 1958. Balance of year consumption rate will probably average about 3 pounds lower than last year.
- Beef: So far beef output has run below year earlier due to 9% reduction in cattle slaughter. Remainder of year fed cattle slaughter will likely be heavier, and that of grass-fat cattle lighter than last year. Prospects are for larger supplies of choice grade beef cuts than last half 1957 and less of both the lower grades and processing beef. Veal supplies will be well below 1957 this summer and fall.
- Pork: Production in recent weeks has run ahead of year earlier, and is expected to continue higher this summer and early fall. Heavier average slaughter weights will help pork production rise over next several months.
- Lamb: Lamb and sheep slaughter expected to increase seasonally this summer; may total close to year ago. The 1958 lamb crop--which provides most summer slaughter supplies--totaled 20 million, 779 thousand head. That was 4% larger than last year and 7% above 1947-56 average.
- POULTRY:
- Chicken: Around mid-August number of marketable broilers will be about one-fourth greater than 1957. Hatchings and egg settings at mid-July were 15% greater than same period last year.
- Turkey: In spite of hatching season continuing later than year earlier, production is expected to dip about 8% below 1957 crop of 81 million birds.
- Eggs: Production this summer and fall will likely exceed 1957. Per capita consumption to July 1 fell about 3% below last year, while movement into storage has also been smaller than year ago.
- DAIRY: Although milk production in first 6 months equaled year earlier, small increase may occur last half of 1958 which would lift total slightly above 1957 record high. Civilian consumption of milk and manufactured dairy products (milk equivalent) balance of year may rise some in total, compared with year earlier.
- VEGETABLES:
- Fresh: Supplies will reach seasonal peak this summer. Production of 18 vegetables, making up about two-thirds total summer tonnage, expected about same as last summer. Moderately larger tonnage expected for summer tomatoes, small increases for sweet corn and cabbage, but substantial declines for snap beans, carrots, celery and cucumbers, and a more modest decline for lettuce. Barring bad weather, fresh vegetable outlook last half this year about same as year earlier.

Potatoes: Late summer crop of 35 million, 449 thousand hundredweight indicated--or about a tenth larger than 1957. Sweet potatoes--forecast at slightly above 17-1/2 million hundredweight--would be 3% below last year and 11% under average.

Processing: Supplies in 1958-59 marketing season will probably run close to previous season's level and considerably above recent years' average.

Canned: Reduction in supplies of sweet corn and a number of less important items will probably be about offset by increases for whole tomatoes and some tomato products. Midyear stocks of canned vegetables are smaller than last year.

Frozen: Stocks totaled 556 million pounds July 1, or 15% below year earlier. Compared with 1957, greatest percentage decreases occurred in holdings of spinach, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, mixed peas, carrots, and other vegetables. Except for sweet corn, lima beans and mixed vegetables, which were slightly larger, stocks of other frozen vegetables were also considerably lower. Overall frozen pack this year will run near 1957 level.

FRUITS:

Deciduous: Apple crop estimates July 1 totaled 123 million, 900 thousand bushels--about 5% above last year, 15% greater than average. Pears, forecast at 28 million, 68 thousand bushels--11% below last year, 6% less than average. Grapes--2 million, 704 thousand tons--4% above last year but 8% below average. However, very heavy Concord type grapes is in prospect. Plum crop expected to be 30% below last year and about same percentage below average. Sweet cherries, forecast slightly more than 86-1/4 thousand tons--7% below last year and average. Sour cherries, estimated at 90 thousand, 630 tons--38% below 1957 and 27% below average.

Citrus: Summer supplies of oranges and grapefruit--mostly from California--and Florida limes--will remain much lighter than year earlier. California lemon supplies, while slightly smaller than last year's heavy supply, will continue adequate. July 1 condition of 1958-59 orange and grapefruit output--harvest to begin this fall--was not equal to condition of those new crops last year due largely to effects of last year's freeze damage on trees.

Canned: Supplies of canned fruits will be somewhat less in early part of summer than last, but are expected to be close to year earlier levels starting in late summer. Carryover stocks of many important deciduous fruits were much smaller than heavy carryovers of year earlier, and packs of some early-season fruits will probably be lower this year.

Frozen: Total supplies of frozen deciduous fruits and berries--excluding juices--will be about as large as last summer. July 1 cold-storage holdings were 11% greater than last year. Frozen concentrated orange juice pack in Florida is down about a fifth from last year, due to fruit losses from freeze damage.

Dried: Supplies expected to continue light this summer, and another relatively light pack seems probable this year. Prospective output of California prunes for drying is down 21% from 1957, apricots down 38%.

Tree Nuts: California almonds estimated 28% below 1957, walnut output 17% greater than last year, filberts 36% smaller than 1957.

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PLENTIFUL FOODS PROGRAM:

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is supporting these industry campaigns:	
NATIONAL BETTER BREAKFAST MONTH	September 1 - 30
CANNED FOODS MONTH	September 1 - 30
FALL POULTRY FESTIVAL	September 25 - October 11
OCTOBER CHEESE FESTIVAL	October 1 - 31